

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information vending apparatus comprising:

accumulation means for accumulating information for sale;

usage condition generating means for generating usage conditions ~~for said~~
~~information for sale~~ in response to a purchase selection of the information for sale;

encryption means for encrypting said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection;

encryption key generating means for generating a cryptographic key which decrypts
said ~~information for sale which is encrypted~~ purchase selection;

authentication means for authenticating a recording medium directly or indirectly
loaded on said information vending apparatus; and,

writing means for writing said ~~encrypted information for sale~~ purchase selection to
said recording medium authenticated by said authentication means along with said usage
conditions and said cryptographic key.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The information vending apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising:

communication means for ~~making communication~~ communicating with a
reproduction unit for reproducing said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection recorded on
said recording medium;

wherein said authentication means further authenticates said reproduction unit when
said communication means makes communication with said reproduction unit; and

said writing means writes said ~~encrypted information for sale~~ purchase selection to said recording medium through said reproduction unit along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

Claim 3 (Original): The information vending apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said storage medium is a portable medium, said portable medium being detachably loaded on said portable device.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The information vending apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said communication means ~~makes communication~~ communicates with said reproduction unit which reproduces said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection recorded on said recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit; and

said writing means writes said ~~encrypted information for sale~~ purchase selection recorded on said recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

Claim 5 (Original): The information vending apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said storage medium is fixedly and integrally arranged on said portable device.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receiving means for receiving said information for sale supplied through a predetermined transmission path;

wherein said accumulation means accumulates said information received by said receiving means.

Claim 7 (Original): The information vending apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said transmission path is the Internet, said information is supplied via the Internet to a server unit, and said information is received from said server unit to be stored in said accumulation means.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said usage condition generating means generates said usage conditions which are ~~followed~~ employed by said reproduction unit which reproduces said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection recorded on said recording medium, and said encryption means encrypts said information for sale by use of an algorithm which allows said reproduction unit to decrypt said information for sale.

Claim 9 (Original): The information vending apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information for sale includes at least one of program, voice, music, still picture, moving picture, text data.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An information vending method comprising the steps of:

accumulating information for sale;

generating usage conditions for said information for sale in response to a purchase selection of information for sale;

encrypting said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection;

generating a cryptographic key which decrypts said information for sale which is encrypted;

authenticating a recording medium loaded on said information vending apparatus in one of direct and indirect manners; and

writing said ~~encrypted information for sale~~ purchase selection to said recording medium authenticated in the authentication step along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The information vending method according to claim 10, further comprising:

~~the step of making communication~~ communicating with a reproduction unit for reproducing said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection recorded on said recording medium;

wherein in said authentication step, said reproduction unit is further authenticated when in said communication step said reproduction unit is communicated; and

in said writing step, said encrypted information for sale along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key are written to said recording medium through said reproduction unit.

Claim 12 (Original): The information vending method according to claim 11, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said storage medium is a portable medium, said portable medium being detachably loaded on said portable device.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The information vending method according to claim 11, wherein in said communication step, said reproduction unit which reproduces said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection recorded on said recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit is communicated; and

in said writing step, said ~~encrypted information for sale~~ purchase selection along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key are written to said recording medium integrally disposed on said reproduction unit.

Claim 14 (Original): The information vending method according to claim 13, wherein said reproduction unit is a portable device and said storage medium is fixedly and integrally arranged on said portable device.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The information vending method according to claim 10, further comprising: ~~the step of~~
receiving said information for sale supplied through a predetermined transmission path;

wherein in said accumulation step, said information received by said receiving means is accumulated.

Claim 16 (Original): The information vending method according to claim 15, wherein said transmission path is the Internet, said information is supplied via the Internet to a server unit, and said information is received from said server unit to be stored in said accumulation step.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The information vending method according to claim 10, wherein in said usage condition generating step, said usage conditions which are ~~followed~~ employed by said reproduction unit which reproduces said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection recorded on said recording medium are generated; and

in said encryption step, said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection is accessed by use of an algorithm which allows said reproduction unit to decrypt said ~~information for sale~~ is encrypted purchase selection.

Claim 18 (Original): The information vending method according to claim 10, wherein said information for sale includes at least one of program, voice, music, still picture, moving picture, text data.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium for storing a computer-readable program, said program ~~comprising the steps of~~ causing a computer to implement a method comprising:

accumulating information for sale;

generating usage conditions for said information for sale in response to a purchase selection of the information for sale;

encrypting said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection;

generating a cryptographic key which decrypts said ~~information for sale~~ purchase selection which is encrypted;

authenticating a recording medium loaded on said information vending apparatus in one of direct and indirect manners; and

writing said ~~encrypted information for sale~~ purchase information to said recording medium authenticated in the authentication step along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.

Claim 20 (New): An information vending apparatus comprising:

- an accumulation unit configured to accumulate information for sale;
- a usage condition generating unit configured to provide usage conditions for said information for sale in response to a purchase selection of information for sale;
- an encryption unit configured to encrypt said purchase selection;
- an encryption key generating unit configured to generate a cryptographic key which decrypts said purchase selection;
- an authentication unit configured to authenticate a recording medium directly or indirectly loaded on said information vending apparatus; and
- a writing unit configured to write said purchase selection to said recording medium authenticated by said authentication means along with said usage conditions and said cryptographic key.